



Pre-Application Webinar:
PAR-23-045, Biomedical Research Facilities (BRF)

Division of Construction and Instruments

OD/DPCPSI/ORIP

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Introduction to Our Panelists

- **Franziska B. Grieder, DVM, PhD**
- **Robert W. Eisinger, PhD**
- **C. Ashley Barnes, PhD**
- **Xiang-Ning Li, MD, PhD**



Construction Program

- **Construction (C06) is a unique funding mechanism at NIH, managed by OD/DPCPSI**
 - Requires its own yearly congressional appropriation
 - NIH has received BRF appropriations in the amount of \$50-\$60 million/yr for the past four fiscal years
- **Program supports facilities that drive transformative, cutting-edge biomedical research**
 - Projects should have significant institutional impact, bringing the research to a new level
- **Construction (C06) program is highly competitive**
 - BRF success rate over the past four years: 7-9%



Overview

- **ORIP in DPCPSI/OD manages NIH construction awards**
 - FOA development, informational webinars, oversight of applications and awarded grants
- **CSR is responsible for application review**
- **High demand program, ~100 applications/yr for last few years**
- **Currently active funding opportunity announcement**
 - PAR-23-045



Introduction to the Program and Presenter

- **PAR-23-045**
 - Presented by **C. Ashley Barnes, PhD**
- **Questions and Answers**
 - Presented by:
C. Ashley Barnes, PhD
Xiang-Ning Li, MD, PhD



What we'll discuss under PAR-23-045

- Goal and target
- Considerations before applying
 - Research intensive vs. IEE
 - A0 only (A1 not allowed)
- Structure of the application
 - PD/PI
 - Budget
- Review and funding criteria
- Timeline
- Some good practices



Goals of the Biomedical Research Facilities PAR-23-045

- **GOAL: Modernize existing or construct new biomedical research facilities**
 - Facility must be able to operate and be used for biomedical research for 20 years post beneficial occupancy
- **TARGET: Shared-use facilities, e.g., core labs, animal facilities, biorepositories, imaging centers, HPC centers, clinical research centers, cGMP installations, etc.**
 - All shared BRFs are eligible, no preferred type of facility
 - Facility should enable cutting-edge biomedical research
 - BRF FOA is not intended for routine upgrading of outdated spaces
 - New capacities and next-level science are expected



Institutional Eligibility

- **Who may apply?**
 - Any US domestic academic/research institute
 - Only ONE application per organization
 - As defined by NIH IPF number
 - Only one active BRF C06 allowed at a time with respect to last three fiscal years
 - Grantees under PAR-20-086, PAR-21-139, or PAR-22-088 (last three years) are not eligible
- **Research intensive institutions vs. institutions of emerging excellence (IEEs)**
 - 25% of total funds set aside for IEEs
 - IEEs must self-identify and justify their status as an IEE
 - Failure to self-identify puts you in the research-intensive category



What constitutes an IEE?

- **Leverage their research abilities to address a problem, concern, or unmet need in the US**
- **Are in locales with deficits in research resources that adversely affect the health of the local population**
- **Work to remedy health disparities, serving as centers for dissemination of health information, workforce development, and research advancement**
 - **Deficits in physical infrastructure hamper these efforts**
- **Often have relatively low levels of NIH funding**



Other Considerations for IEEs

- No fixed cut-off on total NIH (or other) funding
- Location in an IDeA state is not sufficient for IEE status
- IEE status justification should include the domain of excellence targeted by the IEE
- IEEs may define their missions differently than research intensives
 - Advanced biomedical research required
 - Institutional and regional/national impact required
 - Education and workforce training permitted, but cannot be the exclusive focus of the facility



A0 vs. A1?

- **NEW:** A0 applications only. Resubmission (A1) applications are NOT allowed
- Unsuccessful prior applications must submit as a new application (A0)
 - Do NOT include an introduction or discuss previous submission
 - Failure to comply may result in application withdrawal from review
- My application was unsuccessful two years running, can I resubmit my application from two years ago rather than last year?
 - Yes, but only as an A0



PD/PI, Key Personnel, and Users

- **Single PD/PI**
 - A PhD-level administrator or senior scientist with a leadership role in the institution and adequate standing to direct the project and bring it to completion
 - NIH funding is NOT required of the PD/PI
- **Other key personnel and users**
 - Construction project manager with engineering/architect expertise (required)
 - Facilities manager or other subject matter experts required for design and execution of the project (optional)
 - No minimum number of facility users
 - No NIH funding required of users



Budget

- Individual awards: \$3 - \$8 million
- Projects must be completed within 5 years
- Budget can support design, construction, MEP infrastructure, and some fixed, support equipment
 - **NEW:** 10% or less of requested budget for fixed equipment
 - Fixed equipment means that it must be built into or directly connected to the infrastructure of the facility, e.g., fume hoods, autoclaves
 - Fixed does not mean large, immobile, or heavy equipment
 - No scientific equipment (data generating) allowed
 - Reach out to program to make sure that your equipment request is supported
- Contingency fee allowed (15%)
- No salary support unrelated to construction
- No overhead



Structure of the Application and Required Attachments

- **Standard SF424 (R&R) Application Guide requirements apply with the following changes:**
 - No vertebrate animals, human subjects, or select agents
 - Biohazards should be addressed if relevant
- **Required attachments:**
 - **Overview (1 page)**
 - **Scientific (and IEE) Justification and Facility Development (12 pages)**



Required Attachments (cont.)

- Biosketches for the PD/PI and Project Manager
- **NEW**: Annotated satellite and/or map views of the envisioned construction site
- Line drawings of the facility on standard, letter-size paper
 - No page limit, color permitted
- List of each room/component's size (dimensions) and square footage (Table 1)
- List of requested fixed equipment (Table 2)
- Project timeline
- Budget justification
 - Must include vendor quotes for fixed equipment
- Letter from a high-ranking institutional official indicating financial support for the facility
- Verification of title to property or 20+ year lease



Optional Attachments

- **List (Table 3) of up to 12 relevant active grants**
 - Select the most relevant active grants for inclusion
- **Maximum of seven letters of support**

Be sure to name the attachments per FOA instructions



CO6 Review Criteria

- Scientific merit and organization of the total program and its component parts
- Administrative and leadership capabilities of the applicant's officers and staff
- Anticipated effect of the project on other relevant research programs and facilities in the area/nation
- Need for the project or additional space
- Project design

All review criteria are important and may carry equal weight.



Nine CO6 Funding Considerations

- **Impact score**
- NIH and program priorities
- Scientific merit of the research activities
- Scientific/professional standing of the applicant and team
- Availability of other facilities/personnel to support activities and/or adequate biocontainment (where applicable)
- Need for the facility and its effect on similar facilities in the locale
- Project cost and design
- Geographical distribution
- **Availability of funds**



Timeline

- Application due date: **February 24, 2023**
- Scientific merit review: **June 2023**
- Advisory council review: **September 2023**
- Award date: **September 2023**



General Good Practices

- Thoroughly understand the FOA by careful reading
- **Reach out to program to verify that your fixed equipment request is supported**
- Make the reviewers' task easier
 - With a clear writing style
 - With good organization of your application
- Think like a reviewer while preparing your application
 - Make everything explicit
 - Ask yourself whether your most important points have come across clearly





Questions and Answers

Questions: Facilities

- Is a project to remodel two core facilities located in two separate buildings acceptable?
- Is it allowable to request funding for shell-space fit out of a specialized research laboratory that is part of a larger fit out project already underway?
- Is any particular type of facility considered high program priority?



Questions: Budget

- If I am awarded a grant, can I charge the amount I spent on the design section (e.g., floor plans) of my application to the grant?
- Will there be options for additional supplementary funding if costs rise due to covid supply chain issues or inflation?
- Will my chances of getting funded be better if my budget is smaller?
- Is cost sharing required?
- Does voluntary cost sharing help my application?



Questions: Administrative

- What should I do if I have questions about or problems in uploading in the ASSIST system?
- How should line drawings be prepared for the application?
- Will this program be re-issued next year?



Questions: Administrative

- **Could you please clarify whether Table 3 should only include the five columns listed, or whether it should also include the infrastructure needs of the research program they are a part of?**
- **Am I correct in understanding that for this C06 application, any non-scientific team members (with roles such as Other Professional or Consultant) will also have to have obtained a Commons ID in order to be listed as senior/key, or the system would generate an error that would prevent submission?**





Thank you very much for attending our webinar

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